disbursement of claims to the eligible units and seek reimbursement from the Central Government.

ISMA Demand for increase in Levy Price of Sugar

2451. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the levy sugar price on demand of Indian Sugar Mills Association;

(b) if so, the proposed levy price and the impact this price increase will have on the interest of farmers as well as the market policy of sugar industry; and

(c) whether the said Association has also demanded to decontrol the sugar price; and if so, Government's reaction to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association, in their submissions of 20.11.1996, have petitioned the Government to increase the issue price of levy sugar to Rs. 11.30 per Kg. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Assoication has demanded decontrol of sugar pricing. It is the current policy of partial control with a dual pricing machanism which has stood the test of time.

Missing of Blank import licences

2452. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that blank import licences are missing from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT);

(b) if so, the extent of loss and the periods of loss of these blank import licences;

(c) whether it is a fact that these licences were used to siphon the money abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Loss of 3,121 Blank Import Licences has been reported from various regional offices of the Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT) which have come to their notice during the years 1992 to 1995.

(c) and (d) Investigations caused by Enforcement Directorate, have revealed that certain persons/firms have, during the period 1991—96 been resorting to getting remittances abroad effected against fake/missing import licences. Amount suspectedly involved, in contravention of FERA, 1973, in such transactions, as could be ascertained from investigations made, so far, is to the tune of Rs. 129 crores approximately in respect of both fake and missing import licences. On detection of the loss, prompt steps were taken by concerned offices of the Directorate General Foreign Trade to render he missing licences in-operative. One person has so far been arrested under the provisions of FERA.

Setting up of vocational rehabilitation centres for handicapped persons in Bihar

2453. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish vocational rehabilitation, Centres for the handicapped persons in the State of Bihar for their Welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide gainful employment to handicapped persons in Bihar?